

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01112 01 OF 02 282223Z

72

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0370

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO THE NAC: FEBRUARY 28

REF: A) MBFR VIENNA 72; B) MBFR VIENNA 71; C) MBFR VIENNA 413;

D) MBFR VIENNA 454

SUMMARY: AHG ON FEB 28 BRIEFED THE NAC ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATION. AMB GRANDE OF CANADA WAS THE AHG SPOKESMAN, ASSISTED BY AMB ROSE OF THE UK, AND COUNSELLOR TILLISCH OF DENMARK. GRANDE ADHERED CLOSELY TO SPEAKING NOTES IN REFS A AND B. ROSE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE AHG TO DISPOSE PROMPTLY OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEB 25, AND PECK (UK) AGREED. THERE WAS NO OTHER COMMENT BY PERMREPS ON THIS ISSUE. PERMREPS EXPRESSED THEIR THANKS FOR THE BRIEFING, AND ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON OTHER MATTERS, END SUMMARY

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01112 01 OF 02 282223Z

1. SYG LUNS BEGAN BY STATING THAT THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING SESSION HAD BEEN UNEVENTFUL. THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEB 25 DOES NOT CHANGE THE BASIC UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE EASTERN POSITION. IT CONTINUES TO IGNORE THE DISPARITIES. HE

ASKED FOR AHG VIEWS. HE SAID THAT IN NATO THERE WAS A WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION THAT THE EAST WOULD NOT MOVE AT ALL IN VIENNA UNTIL CSCE WAS COMPLETED, AND ASKED FOR AHG VIEWS ON THIS. HE ALSO NOTED THE EASTERN DISCLOSURE OF ITS FREEZE PROPOSAL, AND SAID THAT IF EASTERN DISCLOSURE WAS MOTIVATED BY AN EFFORT TO REACH WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION, THE EAST MIGHT BE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF REACTION BY WESTERN MEDIA AND PUBLIC.

2. AMBASSADOR GRANDE THEN BRIEFED THE NAC ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING ROUND, FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE SPEAKING NOTES IN REF A, AND ON AHG VIEWS ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEB 25, USING THE FIRST SECTION (PARAS 1-5) OF THE TEXT IN REF B.

3. MENZIES (CANADA) ASKED IF THE AHG REPS COULD GIVE THE NAC THE BENEFIT OF ANY PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL OF FEB 25. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR ROSE DREW ON THE MAIN POINTS CONTAINED IN THE REMAINDER OF THE TEXT IN REF B, EMPHASIZING THAT THE AHG CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT TO DISPOSE OF THE NEW PROPOSAL PROMPTLY. TO CONSIDER IT AT GREATER LENGTH WOULD ONLY PLAY INTO EASTERN HANDS. THE AHG WANTED TO TURN DOWN THE EASTERN PROPOSAL AT THE TUESDAY INFORMAL SESSION.

4. PECK (UK) SAID THE AHG WAS RIGHT IN WANTING TO REJECT PROMPTLY THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. HE ASKED IF THE AHG WERE SATISFIED REGARDING ITS OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR NAC GUIDANCE, NOTING THAT NAC HAD TRIED ITS BEST BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS. HE ALSO NOTED FROM AHG REPORT SOME PROGRESS WITH THE EAST ON DATA, AND ASKED IF ALLIED PRESSURE WERE BEGINNING TO TELL.

5. GRANDE, IN RESPONSE TO PECK'S FIRST QUESTION, SAID AHG WAS PRACTICAL AND RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEVELOPING ALLIED POLICY. IN ANY EVENT, THE OTHER SIDE IS NOT COMING UP WITH ANYTHING NEW. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE AHG IS STILL REQUESTING NAC GUIDANCE AS REQUESTED IN THE AHG DEC 12 REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE, (REF C), WITH THE SAME ORDER OF PRIORITIES AS STATED IN THAT REQUEST. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE AHG STILL SEES THE SAME TWO BASIC COURSES OF FUTURE ACTION
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 01112 01 OF 02 282223Z

AS STATED IN PARA 4 OF THE AHG NOV 28 REPORT TO THE NAC (REF D): CONTINUING TO ELABORATE DETAILS OF THE PRESENT ALLIED POSITION, OR ADDING FURTHER ELEMENTS TO THAT POSITION.

6. ROSE, IN RESPONSE TO PECK'S SECOND QUESTION, ASID THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE SENSITIVE TO WESTERN CRITICISMS ON DATA. THE EAST HAS MADE ONE SLIGHT MOVE, AT THE FEBRUARY 11 INFORMAL, IN STATING THAT THE PROTOCOL WOULD INCLUDE NUMBERS AS WELL AS UNITS TO BE

REDUCED BY EACH COUNTRY, AND THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD INCLUDE THE PERCENTAGE OF REDUCTIONS. HOWEVER, THE EAST STILL INSISTS THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT FOR A DATA DISCUSSION, THAT THE EAST

WILL DISCUSS DATA ONLY AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THEIR PROPOSAL. THE AHG REGARDED THE EASTERN REMARKS ON DATA AT THE FEBRUARY 11 INFORMAL AS "ESOTERIC"; THE AHG DID REGARD IT AS A SLIGHT NUANCE OF CHANGE.

7. ROSE, IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY LUNS IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ABOUT CSCE, SAID IT WAS OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE OF THE AHG TO GIVE A FORMAL ANSWER. HE SAID NOTHING AS HAPPENED IN VIENNA INCONSISTENT WITH THE VIEW THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT MOVE IN MBFR UNTIL CONCLUSION OF CSCE; NOTHING HAS HAPPENED IN VIENNA TO SUPPORT A VIEW THAT THE EAST WILL BE READY TO MOVE IN VIENNA AFTER CONCLUSION OF CSCE.

8. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) ASKED IF THE EASTERN REMARKS ON DATA WERE NOT IMPORTANT, AND IF THE AHG INTENDED TO PROBE THE EAST TO SEE IF THE AHG CAN INDUCE FURTHER EASTERN MOVEMENT ON DATA. GRANDE REPLIED THAT THE AHG IS PROBING ON THIS POINT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, BUT THE EAST CONTINUES TO REPEAT THAT THE TIME HAS NOT COME TO DISCUSS DATA, WHICH THE EAST WISHES TO DISCUSS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROTOCOL AFTER AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 01112 02 OF 02 282230Z

72

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1112

9. BAL (BELGIUM) SAID THAT AGAINST THE FIRMNESS OF THE OTHER SIDE, THE ALLIES NEED TO REMAIN FIRM ON THEIR BASIC POSITION. THE ALLIES NEED ALSO TO AVOID FALLING INTO A PASSIVE ATTITUDE, AND SHOULD SEEK AMONG THEMSELVES HOW TO UNBLOCK THE NEGOTIATION

WITHOUT PUTTING OUR BASIC POSITION IN DANGER. HE SAID THE ALLIES WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE VIEWS OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS MATTER. (COMMENT: BAL WAS REFERRING OBLIQUELY TO BELGIAN VIE IN FAVOR OF ALLIED STUDY OF OPTION III. BELGIAN MISSION OFFICER WILLOT) CONFIRMED THIS TO MISSION OFFICER IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

10. BAL ASKED THE AHG REPS TO COMMENT ON WHAT MIGHT BE THE DEFINITIVE EASTERN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GLOBAL CEILING, SO IMPORTANT TO POSSIBLE EUROPEAN DEFENSE INTERREATION; WOULD THE EAST ACCEPT IT IN THE END OR NOT? HE ALSO SAID THAT THE INFORMAL MEETINGS IN VIENNA HAVE TREATED IMPORTANT ISSUES LIKE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. PROCEDURAL RULES EXIST GUARANTEEING PARTICIPATION OF AHG MEMBERS
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01112 02 OF 02 282230Z

IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS. HE SAID ONE COULD ASK IF THE AHG SHOULD NOT DEVELOP NEW PROCEDURAL RULES TO ENABLE ALL APARTICIPANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM.

11. GRANDE, IN REPOSE TO BAL'S FIRST QUESTION, STATED SMIRNOVSKY HAD RECENTLY EMPHASIZED TO HIM AT GREAT LENGTH THE "EXTREME IMPORTANCE" OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT REVEALING HOW MUCH AND WHAT REDUCTIONS IT WOULD UNDERTAKE BEFORE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. SMIRNOVSKY NOTED THE DANGER OF A DIRECT PARTICIPANT INCREASING ITS FORCES TO COMPENSATE FOR REDUCTIONS OF OTHERS, UNDER A GLOBAL CEILING, AND HE WAS CLEARLY REFERRING TO FRG. GRANDE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE EAST WOULD DROP THIS POSITION. ROSE ADDED THAT THE FINAL POINT IN THE AHG DECEMBER 12 REQUEST FOR NEW GUIDANCE ON THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING WAS RELEVANT TO THE BELGIAN.

12. ROSE REPLIED TO BAL'S REMARKS ABOUT THE INFORMAL SESSIONS. HE RECALLED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD SET THEM UP AS SOCIAL GATHERINGS IN THE HOME OF ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE AMBASSADORS. THERE ARE NO FORMAL, STRICT PROCEDURAL RULES. THE AHG AGREED IN THE BEGINNING TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES ON ATTENDANCE, ATTENDANCE IS RELATED TO SUBJECT MATTER, AND THOSE WHO ATTEND ARE NOMINATED EACH TIME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AHG. ROSE STRESSED THE NEED TO KEEP THE INFORMAL SESSIONS AS INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED AS POSSIBLE. IT WOULD DAMAGE THE PRESENT FRANK, FREE DEBATE IF THESE SESSIONS WERE FORMALIZED MORE. ROSE SAID THAT HE AND THE REST OF THE AHG ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEM OF ATTENDANCE AT INFORMAL SESSIONS AND TRY TO WORK IT OUT AS WELL AS POSSIBLE. BALL SAID THE PROBLEM IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, AND THAT HE COULD ONLY EXPRESS THE HOPE AND BELIEF THAT IT CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

13. LUNS NOTED THAT THE AHG PROPOSED MARCH 21 AS THE DATE OF THE NEXT BRIEFING, AND THE NAC TENTATIVELY AGREED TO THAT DATE.
MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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